

UPTON - ON - SEVERN

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

R E P O R T

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1944.

BY

M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch. B., D. P. H.

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WITH

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

by

H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

UPTON--ON--SEVERN RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a short report for the past year. It is necessarily chiefly statistical in character.

The furnishing of these Annual Reports would be greatly facilitated if the Medical Officer of Health were provided with office accommodation where records and correspondence could be dealt with and filed, for reference when required. Some clerical assistance is also necessary. My experience has convinced me that without these facilities it is not possible for a Medical Officer of Health to carry out effectively the many duties which should go with his Office.

As I am overdue for retirement, I am not writing in my own interest but for the benefit of those who may follow me in this and similar appointments. Presumably, in the future, several appointments will be grouped to provide whole-time work for one Officer. In this case it is essential that he should have a definite central office where the work connected with his various functions can be carried out under his own observation and control and where all records may be easily and quickly available for reference.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. Land and Inland Water - 50,947 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population: 12,920.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books; 3372

Rateable Value: £58780 (1st April). Sum represented by a penny rate: £240, to nearest pound.

Social Conditions. In general, in time of war, in countries overrun by the enemy there is a sudden plunge back to primitive conditions, under which all the energy of the subject population is absorbed in efforts to obtain the bare means of existence.

In countries where the enemy fails to establish his ascendancy there is a gradual drift in the same direction. The amenities of living are the first to be curtailed or banished and the obtaining of necessaries becomes difficult.

In the interest of Public Health it becomes one of the functions of Governments to take measures to ensure the equitable distribution of those things which are necessary for the maintenance of life and health.

These measures inevitably cause inconvenience and strain, but in this country at least, I think they have attained their main object.

Mal-nutrition and Infections have been kept in check.

Perhaps this cannot be said of the Neuroses, which present a more difficult problem, but these are not in evidence in an area which is largely agricultural.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Legitimates: Total 218 the number of males and females being exactly equal.

Illegitimates: Total 17: Males 10, Females 7.

The birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population was 18.18, that for England and Wales was 17.6.

Still - births: Total 6, all females, one being illegitimate.

The rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 24.89.

The rate per 1000 total population was 0.46, that for England and Wales being 0.50.

Deaths: Total attributable was 162, viz:- Males 85, females 77.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 12.5. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

The District rate made no allowance for age and sex distribution in the area and as no comparability factor is available for 1944 it cannot be adjusted. Applying the factor for 1938 would return a District death-rate of 8.75 and this is probably nearer the true figure.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis: NIL.

Deaths from other maternal causes: NIL.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births: 34.0 (England & Wales 46).

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live-births: 32.1.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births: 58.8.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): 22.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages): 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): 0.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

The birth-rate appears to be higher than in any year since 1912.

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There are no important developments or changes to report.

There is a small Isolation Hospital provided by the District Council and used for Scarlet Fever cases only during the war but it has never been the custom to provide the Medical Officer of Health with a report on the year's work.

Section C. - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

These will be dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his report which at the time of writing, has not reached me.

Section D. - Housing.

Section E. - Inspection and Supervision of Food.

My remark under Section C above applies to these two sections.

Section F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

1. Table III. appended shows the occurrence and distribution according to age groups of the notifiable Infectious Diseases. Scarlet Fever was rather prevalent in the first month of the year and Measles in the last. There was no concentration of cases in any particular parish. No case of Diphtheria occurred at any age less than 18 years. Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out by Medical Practitioners in or near the district. The numbers known to have undergone full treatment are:-

0 - 4 years.. 155: 5 - 14 years.. 14.

The figure for infants represents 82.8 per cent of the total births during the previous year(1943). Of those ^{born} during 1944 only a few would be treated in that year.

5. Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Table IV. gives the details.

The notification rate was 1.6 and the death-rate 0.38 per 1000 inhabitants of the District.

Of the 21 new cases (including transfers), 7 were inmates of the Mental Hospital.

At the end of the year 77 cases were on the register and of these 53 were lung infections.

In concluding this report I wish to thank the District Council, the County and District, Public Health Staffs and the Medical Practitioners for their help, consideration and co-operation in facilitating the working of my Department.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. QUIRKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

10th September 1945.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR PAST FIVE YEARS.


Year:	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Mid-yearly population:	12,860	13,680	13,150.	12,940	12,920.
Attributable Births.	161	170	185	187	235
Rate per 1000 population	12.5	12.4	14.0	14.45	18.18
Deaths registered.	294	278	267	253	243
Transferable deaths:					
(i) Outward	130	140	145	108	111
(ii) Inward	28	36	28	33	30
Attributable deaths:					
(i) Under 1 year	7	10	3	4	10
Rate per 1000 births	44.5 ⁽¹⁾	64.1 ⁽²⁾	16.2	21.3	34.0
(ii) At all ages.	192	174	150	178	162
Rate per 1000 population	14.9 ^x	12.7	11.4	13.75	12.5.

(1) Calculated on the Registrar-Generals I.M. figure of 157 births.

(2) Calculated on the Registrar-Generals I.M. figure of 156 births.

X After correction for age and sex distribution the figure is 11.0.

No comparability factor has been furnished for subsequent years.



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TABLE 11.
CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1944.

	Males.	Females.
6. Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	1
7. Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	1
9. Influenza.	-	1
13. to 16. Cancer.	13	9
18. Intraoranal vascular lesions.	10	11
19. Heart disease.	26	28
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.	1	-
21. Bronchitis.	1	1
22. Pneumonia.	4	4
23. Other respiratory diseases.	2	-
26. Appendicitis.	2	-
27. Other digestive diseases.	-	3
28. Nephritis.	4	5
31. Premature birth.	3	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth injury etc:	2	1
33. Suicide.	1	-
34. Road traffic accidents.	2	-
35. Other violent causes.	-	3
36. All other causes.	11	8

TABLE 111.
NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE 1944.

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & Over.
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	38	-	1	2	1	-	13	9	6	5	1	-	-
Diphtheria.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	16	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	1	2	3	3
Erysipelas.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	50	-	3	-	-	8	32	4	-	2	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.	16	-	2	1	-	-	10	3	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Malaria.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	135	1	6	4	1	8	57	20	10	14	6	4	4

TABLE IV.

TUBERCULOSIS.SUMMARY OF ALL NEW CASES AND OF ATTRIBUTABLE DEATHS DURING 1944.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 19	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 - 54	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Up-wards.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	9	3	2	2	1	1	1

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council,
Sir Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a brief report as your Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 1944.

Unfortunately war conditions have influenced certain work in connection with the duties of my office, especially the work in connection with Housing, Drainage, and Water Supply, and, in fact any work which require the employment of labour generally in construction or reconstruction.

HOUSING.

The area continued to house a population greater than that of the pre war years, and many houses of a type unsuitable for occupation are for obvious reasons continuing in service. The shortage of housing accommodation is made more apparent by the high price that is being given for any type of house offered with vacant possession.

The Council fully realize the extent of the housing problem both from the shortage of good working class type of houses and the unfitness of a number of houses, and, by the end of the year were considering the appointment of an Additional Inspector whose duties will be mainly in connection with a full housing survey.

The Council are conscious of the necessity for the providing of additional housing accommodation, and I venture to state that by the middle of the coming year, 1945, all sites will have been chosen for the whole of the five years programme, and, if conditions permit, the actual building of houses is contemplated in 1945.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of a large portion of Upton-on-Severn parish and the Mental Hospital and some houses on route in Powick parish supplied from the Worcester City, and a number of houses in the parish of Newland supplied from the Malvern Urban, and an Estate supply giving water to most of the parish of Madresfield, the area is dependent on wells.

The wells vary in depth from 6 ft. to over 100 ft. Generally the well water is hard and invariably

exoeptionally hard.

Owing to the shortage of rain during this and previous years a serious shortage existed in areas supplied by wells, and the shortage was apparent as early as February.

Water in limited quantities had to be carted for domestic use by the Council from about March until late in the year to the parishes of Severn Stoke, Ripple, Hanley Castle, Eldersfield, Longdon, Castlemorton, Welland, Bushley and Queenhill, and in some of these areas the position became most acute.

Water necessary for farm stock caused grave concern, and had not the help of the N.F.S. been available the position would have been extremely serious.

The Council have been aware of the importance of providing a piped supply, and during the latter part of the year engaged a Consultant Engineer to advise and report on the possibility of providing a piped supply to the whole area.

SEWAGE.

The sanitary conditions of some of the parishes especially Severn Stoke, Newland, Ripple, and the Bastonford area of Powick should be improved at the earliest possible moment. It is with relief understood that there is the possibility that the Powick Scheme may be given Ministry of Health consideration shortly and it is hoped that a high priority will be afforded.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections were made of premises preparing storing and selling of food, and generally conditions were satisfactory. The butchers shops and premises continue to be kept in a very clean condition. The bakers premises are generally rather old buildings, but they are kept as clean as possible. Unfortunately such premises out side Upton-on-Severn have not available a piped water supply.

The food retailers appear most anxious to co-operate in the prevention of sale of any food which might be unfit. The table here~~et~~nafter gives the amount and variety of foods condemned.

MILK.

The sampling of Grade A Milk is undertaken by the

Licensing Authority. It is interesting to note by the result of the sampling the number of samples that were below standard, and it can only be concluded that the reason is, the shortage of labour, and in some cases carelessness by the milkers.

A limited number of cowsheds have been modernized but there still remains many premises where improvements are necessary. Milk premises should be very systematically inspected and in an area as this with over 300 producers it would necessitate the appointment of at least one full time inspector for this work.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The Council along with other areas in the County became the Authority for dealing with the destruction of rats and mice, and in co-operation with a neighbouring Authority a professional Rat Catcher was appointed.

Few complaints were received from private householders during the period. Much of the expert's time was spent on Council owned property such as tips, sewage disposal areas etc., and the infestation on such premises has and is being dealt with.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Council for the help and co-operation in all matters that they have been approached upon and it is hoped that the report for the coming year may show the laying of the foundations for post war progression in Public Health matters in this district.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. FIRTH.

Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Visits to premises for investigation	31
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease ..	48
Premises disinfected after other diseases	5
No. of persons given hospital treatment for scabies	4
<u>Diphtheria Immunisation.</u>	

Year 1944.

<u>1 to 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5 to 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total during period.</u>
135	5	140
<u>Total. Year 1940 - 44 (inclusive)</u>		
738	1257	2045

WATER SUPPLY.

Parishes supplied by piped supply:-

Large portion of Upton-on-Severn Parish (Source; deep artesian bore)
Small part of Powick Parish including County & City Mental Hospital,
(Source, Worcester City Supply.)
Small part of Newland Parish (Source, Malvern U.D.C. Supply).
Large part of Madresfield Parish, (Source, private estate supply.)

No. of samples submitted from private well supplies for analysis	8
No. of such samples unfit or quoted "suspicious"	2
No. of new wells sunk as the result of informal action .	1
No. cleaned and repaired as result of informal action .	2
No. deepened owing to shortage	8

Upton-on-Severn Water Supply,

Source - Deep Artesian Bore.

Storage - Underground Concrete Reservoir, Capacity (a) 100,000 gallons,
(b) 11,000 gallons,

Supply - Greater part of Upton-on-Severn Parish.

Approximate number of houses supplied direct - 320

Average daily consumption - 18,000 gallons.

COPY OF ANALYST'S REPORT.

Upon a sample of Reservoir Water contained in W. Qt. Bottle marked "
Sample from Reservoir, Upton-on-Severn, Received from Mr. H. E. Firth,
Sanitary Inspector, of Council Offices, Upton-on-Severn. on 15th May, 1944,
I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and
bacteriologically with the following results:-

<u>Physical Characters.</u>	Clear.
<u>Odour.</u>	None.
<u>Deposit.</u>	None. pH 8.0

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	104
" " " After Ignition	...	...	...	100
Chlorides Calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	22
Hardness Permanent	...	...	...	10
" Temporary	...	...	...	9
" Total	...	...	...	19
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0006
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	...	...	...	None
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected.

Free chlorine on receipt 0.006

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies Developing Upon Agar				
(a) In two days at 37° C	...	...	...	4 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	...	...	20 " " "
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	Nil " 100 "
Streptococci	...	...	...	Absent.

Opinion:-

The sample is fit for drinking.

H. E. MONK.
County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs.
Slaughter Houses.

No. of inspections of Slaughter House used as Ministry of Food Allocation Centre	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Butchers shops in the area	...	...	...	...	9
No. of inspections of Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	19

Bakehouses.

No. of Bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	9
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	17
No. of informal notices served (Limewashing & Cleaning)	...	...	...	...	3

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of Registered Retailers	...	...	...	...	82
No. of Registered Producers	...	...	...	...	294
No. of Milk Samples taken for bacterial Count	...	...	...	...	1
No. of inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	31

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of T.T. Producers	...	...	...	...	11
No. of Grade A. Producers	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Pasteurised Producers	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Bottling "T.T." Milk Licences issued by District Council	...	...	...	...	1

Analyst's Report - Pasteurised milk.

Sample from T.A. Tilt & Sons, 18/5/44.

Colony count of bacteria - 300 per millilitre.

Presumptive Coli test . . . Absent in 1, 1/10th, 1/100th
& 1/1000th ml.

The sample passed the phosphatase test: 1.9 Blue units.

Unsound Food.

Meat other than Butchers supply (2 pigs)	...	...	30 stone.
Bacon ...	...	...	90 lbs.
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	...	...	88 Tins.
Eggs ...	...	...	55 Doz.
Margarine	...	...	1 lb.
Chocolate (Block)	...	...	6 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	36 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	11 lbs.
Prunes	...	...	5 lbs.
Oranges	...	...	208 lbs.
Lemons	...	...	34 lbs.
Mixed Pickles	...	...	1 gall. jar.
Cake (Slab)	...	...	20 lbs.
Apples	...	...	62 lbs.
Butter	...	...	7 lbs.

HOUSING.

No of houses inspected upon complaint ... 7

No of informal Notices served (for essential
repairs only) ... 7

Cases where work carried out as result of
informal action .. 5

No of cases of serious overcrowding investigated .. 2

Cases of overcrowding relieved 3

House Drainage.

New drains laid and tested ... 150 yds.

Lengths of unobstructive drains dealt with ... 2 lengths.

Other Matters.

Offensive Trades ... None in Area.

Common Lodging Houses ... -do-

Rats and Mice Destruction Act .. 4 Cases dealt with.

Nuisance arising from keeping of
domestic animals ... Two cases of nuisance caused
by keeping of Poultry dealt
with.

Public Cleansing & Salvage.

Area served by Scheme ... Whole district,
approx. 85% of dwellings.

Frequency of collection ... Fortnightly to large area,
monthly to small scattered
portion of area.

Salvage Sold During Year Ending December 1944.

				Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Rags	...	...	...	9	9	2	-
Aluminium	...	...	...	-	-	-	191
Copper	...	...	...	-	-	-	60
Brass	...	...	...	-	-	-	220
Lead	...	...	...	-	-	-	233
Paper	...	...	...	86	10	2	-
Rubber	...	...	...	4	7	0	-
Bones	...	...	...	6	19	0	-
Iron	...	...	...	8	7	0	-
Tins	...	...	...	37	13	0	-
Jars	...	...	...		28½ Gross.		

Book Drive.

No. of Books as Target.	...	26,000
No. of Books Collected.	...	73,583
No. sent to Forces.	...	10,228
No. sent to Libraries.	...	229
No. sent to Childrens' Homes		936
